

## **"EXPLORE; DISCOVER; COMMUNICATE"**

I am a Tasmanian Artist specialising in wildlife art, scientific illustration and watercolour landscapes. Murals are also a sideline.

At an early age I developed a visual addiction to light, colour, form and line. A need to explore, discover and understand led me to link studies in art and science. For me there is no boundary between the two disciplines; - both require observation, analysis and experimentation.

I love to share my joy in the landscape and the wonders that surround us. I get a bit caught up in the detail of pieces sometimes, wanting to get them just right - to show everyone every little thing about the object or scene and enjoy the gasp of pleasure and delight that I hear from viewers as a piece draws them in.

I love the challenge of trying to capture the essence of something and show that to others. I'm just a kid who likes to say **"hey, look at how cool THIS is"** all the time.

A restless soul, I can never settle on one topic or media - I want to do it all and mix it up. My favorite tools are my sketchbook, my camera and my microscope. (Although the microscope is a little less portable.)

I enjoy the challenges and satisfaction of working on large pieces, such as landscapes or murals. I balance that with small and highly detailed works, including animal studies.

To me, my landscapes are a celebration of the beauty and wild energy of my surroundings. The natural evolution of these pieces is towards simplicity - trying to capture the essence of the scene with as little detail as possible.

I tend to use my landscapes as a form of rest from the high focus detail of animal studies which are journeys of a different kind, more detailed investigations and observations. I hope they capture some of the essence, the beauty and subtle details of the creature I'm focusing on and make them visible to others. Each image comes together differently. Some are achieved on the spot, when I have a close encounter with a creature or plant that captures my attention. Generally though, things are a little slower. Often I have an idea for an image and it will take me months or years to gather enough information to create the painting.

I do a lot of field sketching, where I gather information about habits and behaviours. I also take lots of photos and use museum specimens to ensure details are correct. Once I have all the information, the finished image is roughed out and then built up in successive layers in order to get the complexity, depth and detail required.

In the future I'd love to explore a total landscape more fully. - It would be fun to do an Antarctic study, or study an island such as Macquarie, or Maatsuyker - in all weathers, with all their occupants. Exploring the Desert and the Kimberley are also ideas that have been growing in my mind for some years.

For more information about me, my product range or to just check out some images please visit my web site: [www.melhillswildart.com.au](http://www.melhillswildart.com.au)